

Message Text

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FOR FUNSETH ONLY FROM S/PRS (TRATTNER)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: RECENT PRESS GUIDANCES

NO. 17

FOR YOUR INFORMATION THERE FOLLOWS TEXTS OF SIGNIFICANT
UNUSED PRESS GUIDANCES AS OF TODAY, DECEMBER 10:

1. CUT IN ISRAELI AID

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO
CUT AID FOR ISRAEL AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS PRO-
TESTED THIS TO THE WHITE HOUSE?

A: IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO COMMENT ON REPORTS ABOUT IN-
TERNAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE USG. THE FIGURES ON AID WILL BE
MADE PUBLIC WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS SUBMITTED TO
CONGRESS. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER FOR YOU ON THIS SUBJECT.

NEA/P:MBERRY CLEARANCES: NEA - ATHERTON NSC - MS. NIEHUS

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2. CIEC

Q: IS THERE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIEC MINISTERIAL? WILL IT BE POSTPONED?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A CONSENSUS AMONG THE 27 CIEC PARTICIPANTS THAT THE CIEC MINISTERIAL BE POSTPONED. THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMEN AND THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCED THAT DECISION TODAY IN OTTAWA, CARACAS AND PARIS. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT THE TWO CO-CHAIRMEN WILL MEET EARLY NEXT YEAR TO DETERMINE THE SCHEDULING OF THE MINISTERIAL.

EB/ORF/FSE:BMILAM/CREEKMORE
CLEARANCE: EB:PHBOEKER

3. US-SOVIET MARITIME NEGOTIATIONS

Q: CAN YOU TELL US THE RESULTS OF THE MARITIME NEGOTIATION WITH THE SOVIETS?

A: THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION HELD NEGOTIATIONS ON MARITIME ISSUES FROM NOVEMBER 29 TO DECEMBER 7. THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS WERE LED BY ASST. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ROBERT J. BLACKWELL. THE CHIEF SOVIET NEGOTIATOR WAS IGOR M. AVERIN, CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE.

THE NEGOTIATIONS COVERED A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING PRINCIPALLY THE QUESTION OF A NEW RATE TO BE APPLIED TO THE SHIPMENT OF GRAIN TO THE USSR AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1976, AND THE MAKEUP OF CARGO DENIED US-FLAG SHIPS IN 1975 AND 1976 (MEANING THAT THE SHORTFALL FROM OUR ONE-THIRD SHARE IN THOSE YEARS SHOULD NOW BE MADE UP). SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES, BUT SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SOVIET POSITIONS REMAIN.

Q: WHAT RATE DO WE WANT TO GET FOR 1977?

A: I DON'T THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO GET INTO DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I CAN SAY THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE A RATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WILL ENSURE THE SUBSTANTIAL PARTICIPATION BY US-FLAG SHIPS PROVIDED FOR IN THE MARITIME AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 29, 1975.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US ANY DETAILS ON THE CARGOES WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE DENIED US?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE PRECISE FIGURES. IN APPROXIMATE

TERMS, THERE ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN A MILLION TONS OF BULK CARGOES WHICH THE SOVIETS SHOULD HAVE ALLOTTED TO US-FLAG SHIPS. MOST OF THAT IS GRAIN.

Q: WILL THE U.S. AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS MEET AGAIN SOON?

A: THE MATTER OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IS UNDER STUDY.

EUR/SOV:JTREICHEL CLEARANCES: EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
CLEARANCES: EUR:JARMITAGE, EB/MA:RBANK, D:RPOATS,
C:JMONTGOMERY, COMMERCE/MARAD:RBLACKWELL

4. U.S. VOTE AGAINST EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION IN UNGA

Q: WHY DID THE U.S. VOTE AGAINST AN EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A: IN EXPLAINING OUR VOTE TO THE ASSEMBLY, GOV. SCRANTON MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT DISAGREE WITH THE UNDERLYING PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS TO EMPHASIZ THE URGENCY OF RESUMING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WE FULLY AGREE THAT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS MUST BEGIN AGAIN SOON.

WE DID DISAGREE, HOWEVER, WITH SPECIFIC ELEMENTS IN THE RESOLUTION. FIRST IT SETS AN ARTIFICIAL DEADLINE FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. THIS IS NOT A MATTER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT RATHER FOR THE PARTIES TO THAT CONFERENCE THEMSELVES TO DECIDE. SECONDLY, IT SETS OUT A TIME FRAME FOR A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, A DECISION WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS AMONG COUNCIL MEMBERS IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION AT THE TIME. FINALLY, THE RESOLUTION IMPLIES THAT THE PLO SHOULD BE ONE OF THE PARTIES CONSULTED BY THE SYG IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREPARATION FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CAN ONLY BE ADDRESSED BY THE ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS THEMSELVES.

5. MEXICO - AMERICAN PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE

Q: WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE ABOUT VIOLENCE ERUPTING IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE IN MEXICO?

A: OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS HAVE HEARD OF NO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE FROM THE AMERICAN PRISONERS WHOM THEY HAVE SEEN WITHIN THE LAST DAY. THIS INCLUDES ALL PRISONS IN THE MEXICO CITY AREA WHERE AMERICANS ARE DETAINED.

Q: HAS THE STRIKE SPREAD TO OTHER PRISONS IN MEXICO?

A: WE HAVE HAD REPORTS THAT INMATES AT THE ACAPULCO PRISON HAVE JOINED THE STRIKE AND PRISONERS IN NUEVO LAREDO PLAN TO JOIN THE STRIKE.

Q: ARE ONLY AMERICAN PRISONERS PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKE?

A: OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT OTHER NATIONALITIES INCLUDING MANY MEXICAN PRISONERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKE.

Q: WHY ARE THE PRISONERS STRIKING?

A: ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRISONERS, THE CAUSE OF THE STRIKE IS WHAT THE PRISONERS REGARD AS THE FAILURE OF MEXICAN OFFICIALS TO KEEP THEIR PROMISE THAT THE PRISONERS WOULD BE OUT OF PRISON BY DECEMBER 1 IF LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED MAKING DRUG OFFENDERS ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE.

Q: HAS IT PASSED?

A: I UNDERSTAND THAT, AS OF NOW, IT HAS NOT.

SCA:JCARTER CLEARANCES: SCS:JHUGHES, SCA:RHENNEMEYER
- - - ARA/P:MYOHN
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6. SOVIET AGREES TO SELL INDIA HEAVY WATER FOR REACTORS

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON THE PENDING USSR SALE OF HEAVY WATER TO INDIA?

A: THE U.S. HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH OTHER SUPPLIER COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE SAFEGUARDS TO ASSURE AGAINST POSSIBLE DIVERSION TO NON-CIVIL APPLICATIONS WE DO NOT WANT TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS REPORTED TRANSACTION AT THIS TIME.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF U.S./INDIA NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONTINUED SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL FOR USE IN INDIA'S TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION?

A: THE DEPT, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES IS EXPLORING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GOI UNDER WHICH U.S.-SUPPLIED FUEL THAT HAS BEEN IRRADIATED IN TAPS MIGHT BE RETURNED TO THE U.S. OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE INDIANS TO DATE HAVE BEEN USEFUL, BUT A NUMBER OF FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED.

EB;NEA CLEARANCE: P - MR. HABIB

7. F-15'S FOR ISRAEL

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT ISRAEL IS ABOUT TO TAKE DELIVERY OF ITS FIRST BATCH OF F-15 JET FIGHTERS? WHEN? HOW MANY?

A: WE DO UNDERSTAND THAT ISRAEL HAS RECEIVED F-15'S FORESEEN IN AGREEMENTS REACHED SOME TIME AGO. FOR ANSWER TO THE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT DELIVERY TIMES AND NUMBERS, YOU SHOULD GO TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

FYI: THE FIRST DELIVERY OF F-15'S IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. THERE WILL BE FOUR (4) PLANES IN THIS BATCH. THE TOTAL NUMBER TO BE DELIVERED IS 25. GENERAL APPROVAL ON F-15'S CAME DURING THE JANUARY, 1976 VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN (IN MEETINGS) WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

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